

REMARKS

Claims 4-5 and 7-11 have been amended to eliminate improper multiple dependencies.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

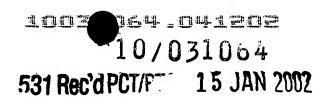
Respectfully submitted,

egistration No. 32,607

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037-3213

Telephone: (202) 293-7060 Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Appln. No. Not Assigned

APPENDIX

<u>VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE</u> <u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Amend the claims as follows:

- 4. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 or 2, wherein each filament end is welded to one of its next-but-one neighbours.
- 5. (Amended) A stent according to [claims 1, 2, 3, or 4] <u>claim 1 or 2</u>, wherein some but not all of the filament ends are welded.
- 7. (Amended) A stent according to claim 5 [or 6], wherein the diameter of the join is no more than 3, preferably less than 2.5, times the diameter of the filament.
- 8. (Amended) A stent according to any of claim 5 [to 7], wherein at least some of the joins provide a shoulder in a rearward axial direction.
- 9. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim,] claim 1 or 2, wherein, in its fully unloaded conformation the angle α between filaments is less than 90°.
- 10. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 or 2, wherein the angle at which the filaments are joined to one another is in the range 0° to 15°.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Appln. No. Not Assigned

11. (Amended) A stent according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 or 2, wherein the filaments bend outwardly towards the join, the angle at which they bend increasing as the filaments extend towards the join.